

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS/IRN/NEA:P.HUDDLE:MP  
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NEA/AFN - W. WEISLOGEL (DRAFT)  
AF/E - W.B. COOTE (DRAFT)

----- 101338

R 300138Z JAN 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 023191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, IR, AF

SUBJECT:SHAH'S CONCERNS ABOUT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: TEHRAN 0706

1. IN RESPONSE TO SHAH'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (REFTEL)  
YOU MAY PASS FOLLOWING:

2. GIAP WAS RETURNING AN EARLIER ALGERIAN VISIT, BUT HIS  
TRIP AT THIS TIME MAY HAVE BEEN RELATED TO THE ALMERIAN  
EFFORT TO RALLY SOCIALIST SUPPORT FOR ITS STAND ON SPANISH  
SAHARA. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT GIAP AND THE ALGERIANS AGREED  
TO. WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOME MOROCCAN MILITARY OFFICIALS  
BELIEVE THAT THE POLISARIO MAY RECEIVE MEN AND EQUIPMENT  
FROM NORTH VIETNAM FOLLOWING THE CONTACTS OF GIAP WITH THE  
POLISARIO DURING HIS ALGERIAN VISIT. WE HAVE NOTHING TO  
CORROBORATE THIS AS YET.

3. THE SOVIETS ARE DOING LITTLE IN ETHIOPIA. NEVERTHELESS,  
THEY REGARD THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN ETHIOPIA AS ONE WITH  
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WHICH THEY CAN DEVELOP A BETTER, AND HOPEFULLY MORE

INFLUENTIAL, RELATIONSHIP THAN EXISTED UNDER THE MONARCHY. THEY INTEND TO KEEP UP THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA, WHICH IS THE MORE PROFITABLE, AND WILL IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS WILL NOT HURT THEIR RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. THE SOVIETS PROBABLY DO NOT WANT TO SEE A WAR BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA OVER AFARS AND ISSAS AS THIS WILL COMPLICATE THE SOVIET TIE TO SOMALIA AND WITH AFRICA IN GENERAL. THEY ARE PROBABLY CONTINUING TO CAUTION THE SOMALIS AGAINST MOVES WHICH WOULD PRODUCE A WAR, BUT THEIR CAUTIONS MAY NOT BE HEEDDED. SHORT OF THAT, IT IS ALSO UNLIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS ARE GOING TO STAND IN THE WAY OF SOMALIA'S PURSUING ITS OWN ENDS IN DJIBOUTI. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO CUT OFF ARMS OR OIL TO RESTRAIN SOMALI SUBVERSION IN DJIBOUTI. WITH RESPECT TO DJIBOUTI WE BELIEVE THAT: 1) THE FRENCH DO NOT WISH TO DEPART COMPLETELY AND HOPE TO MAINTAIN SOME DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS; 2) THE SOMALIS WILL MEDDLE IN DJIBOUTI POLITICS AND CERTAINLY INTEND TO EXTEND INFLUENCE OVER ISSAS, A SOMALI CLAN; 3) THE ETHIOPIANS OPPOSE THIS AND MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO INTERVENE MILITARILY TO CHECK SOMALIA.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION TWO HUNDRED CUBANS WERE IN SOUTH YEMEN IN EARLY 1975, AND THE CUBAN CONTINGENT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN PHASED OUT DURING THE YEAR, AFTER FIVE YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH YEMEN. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CUBANS NOW NUMBER ROUGHLY ONE HUNDRED. IF THE SHAH HAS HARD INFORMATION TO THE CONTRARY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IT. KISSINGER

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